

REMARKS

Claims 22-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-40 have been amended and claims 1-21 have been canceled by the present Amendment or a previous Amendment. Claims 22 and 41 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 20 and 21 stand rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,001,102. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not conceding to the appropriateness of the Examiner's double patenting rejection, as the Examiner will note, claims 20 and 21 have been canceled. Therefore, the Examiner's double patenting rejection has been rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner has only provided a double patenting rejection of claims 20 and 21. The Examiner has not provided any rejection of claims 22-40. Therefore, it is believed that the Examiner considers claims 22-40 to be in condition for allowance. Claim 22 has been presented having a scope the same as presented in the Preliminary Amendment dated September 12, 2003. Therefore, claim 22 should still be in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 23-40 have been amended to be in better form for U.S. practice and to depend from new independent claim 41. It is believed that new independent claim 41 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, dependent claims 23-40 should also be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, the present application should be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul C. Lewis Reg. No. 43,368 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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